

Documents on Diplomacy: The Source

Mutual Defense Treaty: United States & the Republic of Korea *October 1, 1953*

The Parties to this Treaty,
Reaffirming their desire to live in peace with all peoples and
an governments, and desiring to strengthen the fabric of
peace in the Pacific area,

Desiring to declare publicly and formally their common
determination to defend themselves against external armed attack
so that no potential aggressor could be under the illusion that
either of them stands alone in the Pacific area,

Desiring further to strengthen their efforts for collective defense
for the preservation of peace and security pending the development
of a more comprehensive and effective system of regional security
in the Pacific area,

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I

The Parties undertake to settle any international disputes in which
they may be involved by peaceful means in such a manner that
international peace and security and justice are not endangered and
to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of
force in any manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United
Nations, or obligations assumed by any Party toward the United
Nations.

ARTICLE II

The Parties will consult together whenever, in the opinion of
either of them, the political independence or security of either of
the Parties is threatened by external armed attack. Separately and
jointly, by self help and mutual aid, the Parties will maintain and
develop appropriate means to deter armed attack and will take
suitable measures in consultation and agreement to implement this
Treaty and to further its purposes.

ARTICLE III

Each Party recognizes that an armed attack in the Pacific area
on either of the Parties in territories now under their respective
administrative control, or hereafter recognized by one of the Parties

as lawfully brought under the administrative control of the other,
would be dangerous to its own peace and safety and declares that
it would act to meet the common danger in accordance with its
constitutional processes.

ARTICLE IV

The Republic of Korea grants, and the United States of America
accepts, the right to dispose United States land, air and sea forces in
and about the territory of the Republic of Korea as determined by
mutual agreement.

ARTICLE V

This Treaty shall be ratified by the United States of America and the
Republic of Korea in accordance with their respective constitutional
processes and will come into force when instruments of ratification
thereof have been exchanged by them at Washington.

ARTICLE VI

This Treaty shall remain in force indefinitely. Either Party may
terminate it one year after notice has been given to the other Party.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned Plenipotentiaries
have signed this Treaty.

DONE in duplicate at Washington, in the English and Korean
languages, this first day of October 1953. ■

Source

The Avalon Project: Documents in Law, History, and Diplomacy, Yale
Law School, Lillian Goldman Law Library. Source: *American
Foreign Policy, 1950-1955, Basic Documents*, Volume 1 & 2,
Department of State Publication 6446, General Foreign Policy
Series 117, Washington, DC : Government Printing Office, 1957

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/kor001.asp